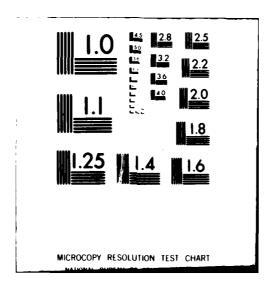
AIR FORCE INST OF TECH WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OH F/G 15/5 AM AMALYSIS OF AIR FORCE AVIONIC TEST STATION UTILIZATION USING--ETC(U) DEC 79 JR LOWELL AFIT-CI-79-2651 NL 7ND-A091 478 UNCLASSIFIED 1 of 2



#### **ABSTRACT**

James Russell Lowell, M.S.E., Arizona State University, December, 1979. An Analysis of Air Force Avionic Test Station Utilization Using Q-GERT Modeling and Simulation.

Air Force managers must determine avionic maintenance support resource levels prior to employment of the weapon system associated with such support. A need exists for a method by which probable maintenance support requirements may be evaluated so that resource allocation may be accomplished with confidence. The objective of this report is to show that Graphical Evaluation and Review Technique with Queueing (Q-GERT) simulation can be used to evaluate avionic maintenance support systems. And, that simulation analysis can provide data for avionic maintenance resource allocation.

This report demonstrates the use of Q-GERT to: model an Air Force avionic maintenance system; evaluate the maintenance system through simulation; determine maintenance resource requirements; and, aid management with day-to-day decisions. A Q-GERT network model is developed and translated into computer input format. Simulation of this model is accomplished to provide data for analysis. Analysis illustrates the use of this method as an aid to Command level and Base level decision makers.

Results of this analysis leads to the conclusion that Q-GERT can be used to answer critical questions concerning the availability of avionic maintenance support resources.

## AN ANALYSIS OF AIR FORCE AVIONIC TEST STATION UTILIZATION USING Q-GERT MODELING AND SIMULATION

bу

James Russell Lowell

AN ENGINEERING REPORT PRESENTED IN

PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS

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#### INTRODUCTION

Assessment of resource requirements and costs associated with the support of flying activities in various United States Air Force (USAF) organizations is a continuing problem. As new aircraft systems and subsystems enter the inventory, there exists a recurring need for reliable estimates of maintenance resource requirements to activate, maintain, and deploy the emerging system. Such estimates aid USAF managers in allocating maintenance resources to insure mission capability in a timely manner [8].

#### Background

A method presently used for such evaluations is the Logistics Composite Model (LCOM) simulation technique. With the LCOM simulation language, USAF base level aircraft maintenance and support activities are modeled [10, 11]. Simulation with such a model has been used successfully to determine maintenance manpower requirements to support specified levels of flying activities for several tactical weapon systems (4).

Air Force Test and Evaluation Center (AFTEC) analysis using LCOM has extended the use of LCOM to include assessment of the sensitivity of sortie generation capability to: manpower; spare parts and support equipment levels; reliability/maintainability parameters; and Avionic Intermediate Shop (AIS) test station availability. Although successful,

because of the complexity of LCOM, modeling and analysis of AIS becomes very time consuming and expensive. Consequently, AFTEC has suggested a research effort to develop a procedure by which the Queueing Graphical Evaluation and Review Technique (Q-GERT) may be used for AIS sensitivity analysis [23]. Use of Q-GERT is suggested since its application and simplistic approach will enable more timely and cost effective analysis that will interface well with other ongoing simulation efforts such as LCOM.

#### Research Problem

A need exists to analyze critical questions concerning test station availability and the effects of that availability on sortic generation capability. AFTEC has suggested the use of  $\Omega$ -GERT as the modeling tool to conduct such analysis [3].

#### Research Objective

In this research project, the author will use Q-GERT to model and analyze the F-16 AIS. The modeling effort includes identification and definition of the system and system parameters and translation of such parameters into Q-GERT networks. With a basic model constructed, simulation is accomplished and analysis of simulation results is discussed.

#### Research Scope

The intent of this report is to describe Q-GERT model development and analysis procedures applicaable to USAF weapon system support

evaluation. The F-16 weapon system is used as an example of the application. Although data parameters are realistic, they are not assumed to be accurate. Sortie rate requirements herein are completely ficticious and should not be used for USAF analysis.

#### Overview

The remainder of this report consists of seven chapters. The Problem Definition chapter describes the system to be simulated and the type of evaluation required. The Q-GERT chapter provides the reader with the Q-GERT network and analysis concepts necessary for the reading of this report. The Modeling chapter details the process by which the defined system is translated into the Q-GERT simulation language. In the Model Validation, Command Level Decision, and Base Level Decisions chapters, discussion of simulation output and the analysis of that output is presented. Finally, the Conclusions and Recommendation chapter summarizes the research findings.

#### II. PROBLEM DEFINITION

This chapter contains a description of the maintenance system to be modeled. It also identifies and defines evaluation requirements and the parameters used in the evaluation. The description includes pertinent assumptions and the maintenance process.

#### Sortie Generation

Within the USAF, the flight of an aircraft is termed a sortie. When an aircraft takes off, flys some maneuver, and lands, one sortie is constituted. Many support resources are measured in terms of this sortie since plans are based on how many sorties are required by each aircraft per day to accomplish a desired goal [1, 3]. Sortie requirements of this report are fictitious and should not be considered in any F-16 analysis.

#### Maintenance Support

Sortie generation is mainly a function of aircraft availability. It is obvious that an aircraft which is unavailable cannot fly, and an aircraft in repair status is considered unavailable. Maintenance support is designed to process aircraft repair in an expedient manner to assure availability. This maintenance is usually accomplished by removing a failed component from an aircraft system and replacing it with a good like item from supply stock. The aircraft is then available

for sortie generation while the failed component is repaired in a maintenance shop.

#### Aircraft\_Systems/Subsystems

For purposes of maintenance support, aircraft within the USAF are subdivided into systems. Each system such as Engines, Fuels, and RADAR has specialists trained specifically as maintenanace technicians. Within a system, sybsystems such as Navigational RADAR and Fire Control RADAR exist. These sybsystems are made up of functional component "black boxes" such as computers, control units, transmitters, receivers, etc. Each of these component "black boxes" is referred to as a line replaceable unit (LRU) and constitute the components that are removed and replaced on the aircraft and repaired in the maintenance shop.

#### Aircraft System Failure

Each system on an aircraft is subject to failure. The Air Force measures these system failures in terms of number of sorties flown.

Systems have a failure parameter, assumed to be exponentially distributed, of Mean Sortie Between Maintenance Action (MSBMA) [27]. When an aircraft system fails, one of two methods of aircraft repair occurs. The first of these methods involves the removal of an LRU, the second method does not. Empirical data provides estimates for the probability of LRU removal, given failure of the parent system, for most weapon systems. When a new weapon system with no empirical data is studied,

a comparability study is conducted to extrapolate date from one weapon system to another [27].

#### Avionic Intermediate Shop

Electronic components of avionic systems, removed from an aircraft, are processed through Avionic Intermediate Shops (AIS) for repair.

Modern weapon system AIS rely on an Automatic Test Set with specific test stations designed for functional repair of avionic components.

Upon removal from an aircraft, a given LRU will enter the shop and either go directly to the test station that has repair capability for the unit or it will be placed in waiting status for the availability of the test station. Each test station has the capability to perform diagnostic and fault isolation for several LRUs within a functional group. Systems such as these usually have some sort of adaptors designed to interface the LRU with the test station. Connecting the LRU and interface adaptor to the test station constitutes a set-up procedure.

When a LRU is assigned to a test station there are three basic types of maintenance actions that may be taken; bench check and repair; bench check and no repair required; and not repairable this station [3]. There is an expected task time associated with each of the repair actions that the Air Force has determined to be Lognormally distributed [15]. Upon completion of either repair or no repair required actions, the LRU is returned to supply stock to be used on an aircraft as required. If the LRU is not repairable, it is shipped off-base to a depot repair

facility. This unit is lost to the base supply system until replenishment occurs.

#### System Modeling Requirements

The object of this research is the analysis of AIS test stations and the effects they have on sortic generation. The following overview, in conjunction with the figure 2-1, details the maintenenace system of interest.

A predetermined sortie generation requirement drives avionic system failures based on MSBMA. When a given system fails, the type of organizational maintenance required on the aircraft is determined probabilistically. If a remove action is required and a LRU spare is available for replacement, the aircraft returns to available status and the failed LRU is routed to the shop. If there is no spare LRU, the LRU removed from the aircraft must be repaired and reinstalled prior to the aircraft becoming available for flight.

A LRU removed from the aircraft is transported to the shop and may either enter awaiting maintenance (AWM) status or go directly to the appropriate test station depending on test station availability. When the test station is available, the LRU repair action is determined probabilistically with the time to repair selected from a Lognormal distribution. The LRU repair action may lead to replenishment of supply stock, repair of an aircraft, or a depot delay depending on the predetermined type of removal for the aircraft or the probabilistic repair action taken.

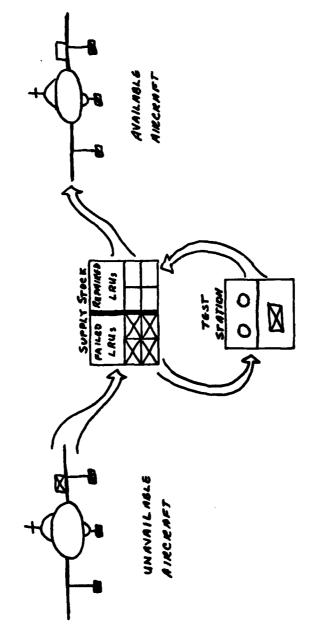


Figure 2-1. Maintenance Repair Cycle

#### Parameters of Evaluation

Analysis of this system requires that control over attempted or scheduled sorties is available to the analyst. There must also be a method to allow failures based on MSBMA and the probabilities associated with LRU removal given a system failure.

With a LRU flow into the shop initiated, it is necsssary to follow each LRU through the shop process to determine the average total time in the shop, average time in queues, and total number processed. The cumulation of these repair activities will provide a test station utilization statistic.

Iterative simulation over a spectrum of sortie generation rates and the above mentioned statistics will provide the necessary data to determine test station resources required to support given sortie generation rates.

#### III. Q-GERT MODELING

#### Development of Q-GERT

The technique used herein is an extension of the GERT simulation models, and GERT model development will be duscussed to summarize the events which lead to Q-GERT. For the reader interested in a detailed treatment, refer to [24, 25, 26].

GERT is a result of an extension of the modeling capabilities of PERT and CPM. Pritsker and Happ [26] developed and defined this "stochastic network" or Graphical Evaluation and Review Technique (GERT) network. Generally, stochastic networks are characterized by:

- 1. Directed branches representing activities or processes,
- 2. Each branch is assigned a probability of occurrence and other parameters which describe the distribution of time to traverse the branch,
- 3. Logical nodes which denote the precedence relationship between the incident and emanating branches of the node, and
- 4. A realization of the network is a set of branches and nodes which define a path through the network for one experiment [16].

The input at each node may be singular or multiple with AND-type (all incident branches must be realized) or OR-type (only one incident branch must be realized) logic. Logic such as these allow the node to be realized and upon realization of a node, transaction output may be either deterministric or probabilistic. Determine output causes the

release of all branches emanating from a node while probabilistic implies that only one branch is released according to the probabilities of the branch. Such probabilistic selection of branches emanating from a node is mutually exclusive and the sum of probabilities must be unity.

The expanded network logic of GERT allows for network modeling where not all of the paths of the network must be traversed to reach the terminal point. Because of this model enhancement, GERT can be used to model situations where one of many paths will lead to success.

Upon realization of the limitation of GERT as an analytic model, Pritsker developed a simulator called GERTS [25]. This original simulator has been revised several times and each time additional capabilities and improvements in methods of data storage were added [16].

The most recent addition to the GERT family is Q-GERT. The Q implies a capability to formulate queues at nodes designed as Q-nodes. This feature of the model is not new; previous GERT models, particularly GERTS-IIIQ and GERTS QR, had the same capability. The characteristics of Q-GERT that makes it an improved model are that it combines most of the features of all predecessor GERTS models and in addition gives the analyst the flexibility to write and insert "user functions" which follow the general logic of the Fortran based GASP IV simulation language [24].

#### Summary of Modeling and Notation

The first step in modeling with Q-GERT is drawing a network design of the system to be studied. The graphical model associated with

Q-GERT is basically a means of communicating the process of interest. It also represents the organization and definition of the problem for input to the computer program. Networks establish a means by which the analyst can clearly define the relationship among system components, the parameters of the system, and the decision points and rules within the system. When the network is complete, the analyst may study it and determine, in many cases without the aid of the computer, errors in logic, or flaws in the design of the system. After concluding the network represents the desired system, network notation is readily transformed to computer input form. Experience has shown the network to be an excellent means of explaining the sytem, system parameters and impending analysis of the output to those not well versed in the methods of Operations Research or Systems Analysis.

The network consists of branches representing activities or directional flow paths and nodes representing logical relationships between activities. Transactions representing entities being processed, flow through the network from node to node through the branches as shown in figure 3-1. Each branch has a starting and ending node and transactions that traverse the branch are delayed by the time associated with the activity the branch represents [24, 25]. The times associated with the activity may be selected from several built-in distributions or by a user defined distribution. Each transaction may be assigned attributes that distinguish some characteristic of the entity being modeled. For some node-branch relationships, a transaction's attributes can be used to identify activity parameters or branching



Figure 3-1. Q-GERT Transaction Flow

rules. When a transaction reaches a node, the node-type determines disposition of that transaction. Regular nodes are used for deterministic and probabilistic routing. These nodes may also invoke conditional branching, a new feature of Q-GERT. Queue nodes detain or hold a transaction until availability of a service facility, resource, or match criteria release the node. New features of the Q-GERT model that are associated with queue nodes include: select nodes which allow the analyst to define prioritized selection and routing of queue transactions; and, allocate nodes which hold a transaction in the queue until a required resource is available. Nodes that are related to the allocate nodes are: free nodes which release an assigned resource to be allocated upon completion of the activities which entail resource utilization; and, alter nodes which provide a method to increase or decrease the quantity authorized of a given resource [24].

Node and branch symbology used in this report is presented in Table 3-la through Table 3-ld with a brief explanation of the function of each symbol. The translation of network symbols used herein to computer input form is described in Table 3-2 [24].

When the Q-GERT network has been translated to computer input form, all that remains to be done is simulation and analysis. Free form coding and the ability to visually debug a network are time saving features of the Q-GERT model. If, however, programming errors exist upon initial attempts of simulation, Q-GERT diagnostic messages are

# Table 3-la\* Q-GERT Symbols



## Definition

OSR is the queue selection rule that will be used to allocate resources.

RES is the resource number that is used to identify the resource type.

OTY is the quantity of resource type RES.



is the resource type to be released.

is the number of the resource to be freed.

is the Free node number.

ALL is the allocate node of the resource.

is the resource type number.

is the capacity change requested.

is the Alter node number.

ALL is the allocate node of the resource.

# Table 3-1b\* Q-Gert Symbols

## Definition

X		
a		

۵

is the attribute number to which a value is to be assigned; if A is specified, add value to attribute. A; if A- is specified, subtract.

is the distribution or function type from which assignment value is drawn.

PS is the parameter set number.

Indicates conditional take-first branching from the node.



Indicates conditional take-all branching from the node.



If P 1.0, Pis the probability of taking the activity.

If P 1, P is an attribute number.

# Table 3-1c\* Q-GERT Symbols

## Definition

4SR is the queue selection rule for routing transactions to or from Q nodes.

SSR is the server selection rule for deciding which server to make busy if a choice exists.

is the S node number.

SSR #



# is the activity number causing nodal modification.

n is the node number to be replaced when activity # is completed.

m is the node number that will replace node n when activity # is completed.

Routing indicator for transaction flow to or from Q nodes to S nodes or Allocate nodes.

# Definition

- Rf is the number of incoming transactions needed to release the node the first tim.
- As is the number of incoming transactions needed for all other releases of the node.
- C is the criterion for holding the attribute set at a node.
- S is the statistics type or marking.
- # is the node number.

indicates deterministic branching.

indicates probabilistic branching.

- is the initial number of transactions at the a node.
- M is the maximum number of transactions that the queue can except.
- R is the ranking procedure for ordering transactions at the queue.
- # is the C node number.
- is the probability of taking the branch.
- D is the distribution or function type from which the activity time is drawn.

7 P. P. P.

- PS in the parameter set number where the parameters for the activity time are specified.
- // in the nettrity musher.
- (1) is the number of paralles servers associated with the activity.

Table 3-2\* Q-GERT Input Format

-	. ~	<b>ო</b>	4	r.	9	7	œ	6	10
REG/SOU	Node number	Initial number to release	Subsequent number to release	Branching	Marking	Choice criterion			
SIN/STA	Node number	Initial number to release	Subsequent number to release	Branching	Statis- tics desired	Upper limit of first cell	Width of histogram cell	Choice criterion	
QUE	Node number	Initial number in queue	Capacity of Q-node	Branching	Ranking	Block or node num- ber for balkers	Upper limit of first	Width of histogram cell	Following allocate nodes
SEL	Node number	Queue selec- tion rule	Server selection rule	Choice criterion	Block or node num- ber for balkers	Associ- ated Q-nodes			
VAS	Node number	Attribute number	Distribu- tion type	Parameter set					
PAR	Parameter set number	Parameter 1	Parameter 2	Parameter 3	Parameter 4	Stream			
ACT	Start node	End node	Distribu- tion of function type	Parameter set or constant	Activity number	Number of parallel servers	Probabil- ity of attribute number or order	Code code	
QQW	Activity number	Node out	Node in						
TRA	Node number								

\*Extracted from Pritsker [24].

printed in the output to aid in sumulation debugging. If debugging cannot be accomplished with the aid of these diagnostics, there is a feature of the model that allows nodal and/or event tracing to help locate faulty network logic.

#### IV. MODEL OF THE SYSTEM

#### System Definition

The system modeled is similar to the job-shop consisting of a single homogeneous resource. Other resources are considered as always available when the one defined resource is available. There are six types of arrivals (LRUs), each having a Poisson arrival rate modified by a conditional probability [27]. Each arriving LRU transaction enters a queue specified by the type LRU identified by attributes, and no balking occurs. When a test station resource is available, it is allocated to one of the waiting LRU transactions allowing the LRU transaction to continue processing through the repair shop. Each LRU has an exclusive set of service channels with probabilistic routing to repair activities with mean repair times drawn from a Lognormal distribution [15]. As each LRU completes the service activity, the test station resource is freed and made available to be allocated to the next waiting transaction. The completed transaction is routed to a node used as a counter that will fail the test station after a given number of transactions have been processed.

Prior to the shop process described above, an integral portion of the system must be modeled. The arriving LRU transactions represent failed aircraft components with failure rates based on the number of times an aircraft has flown. Thus, the first part of the system must simulate the generation of aircraft and the use of those aircraft to fly sorties to drive system and LRU failures.

Additionally, the total system must include a method to control the amount of time each day that flight and maintenance operations are accomplished and control the number of operating days each week.

#### Aircraft Generation

Aircraft are generated by the source node. Each aircraft generated is an entity which must have attributes representing avionic systems and all aircraft entering the system will stay in the system. The analyst must decide how many aircraft should be generated to establish flying and failure rates. Most fighter aircraft units have flying squadrons with 24 aircraft assigned [3, 4]. Based upon this knowledge, the example described in this report has 24 aircraft generationed as indicated in figure 4-1.

Source node-1 is realized upon activation of the simulator and the first transaction generated is assigned the value one, to attribute-1. This transaction, due to the conditional take-all branching of the source node, will traverse both paths emanating from the node. As shown, the upper path from node-1 to node-1 has the condition Al.LE.23, which allows transactions with the value of attribute-1, of 23 or less, to traverse the path. Since node-1 is also an increment node, each transaction that causes node realization will have the value of attribute-1, increased by one. When the value of attribute-1 reaches 24, that number of aircraft has been generated since very transaction has also traversed the branch leading to node-2 with condition Al.LE.24.

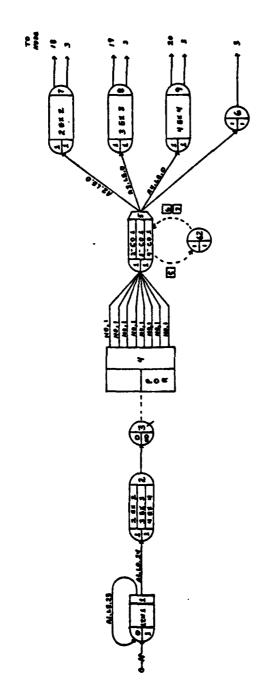


Figure 4-1. Aircraft, Sortie and System Failure Generation

As each aircraft transaction generated realizes node-2, values are assigned attributes-2,3, and 4 which indicate the number of sorties to failure of aircraft avionic systems 41800, 74800, and 74E00 respectively. The values assigned these attributes are draws from Exponential distributions with means corresponding to system MSBMA [27, 29].

#### Sortie Generation and System Failure

After the assignment of attributes for system failures, the transaction enters Q node-3, an available aircraft pool. Aircraft wait in the available pool until selected by S node-4 to fly a sortie. As shown in figure 4-1, the select node has eight activity branches emanating from it that represent sortie selection. The activities themselves do not constitute a sortie but rather establish a means by which the number of sorties flown each day can be regulated. Control of the number of sorties is realized by changing the mean of parameter set-1. Each of the eight activities emanating from S node-4 draws from the distribution defined by parameter set-1 to determine the delay time for transactions traversing the network from Q node-3 to R node-5, the sortie node. Table 4-1 lists several sortie rates that may be desired and the corresponding mean value for parameter set-1. For sortie rates not listed, the calculation performed to arrive at the proper setting of the mean of parameter set-1 is:

$$T_u = \left(\frac{S_n}{S_b}\right)\left(\frac{1}{FE}\right)$$

where, Tu is the mean of parameter set-1, Sn is the number of sorties desired daily, Sb is the number of branches emanating from S-node-4,

and FE is the flying envelop or number of hours of flight operations each day.

Table 4-1. Mean of parameter set-1  $(T_u)$  required to generate S, average number of sorties per flying day

s	Tu
20	6.40
30	4.26
40	3.20
50	2.56
60	2.13
70	1.83
80	1.60
90	1.42

### General Calculation of $T_{\boldsymbol{u}}$

$$T_{u} = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{S_{n}}{S_{b}}\right)\left(\frac{1}{FE}\right)}$$

where,  $S_n$  is the number of sorties requires  $S_b$  is the number of sortie activities and FE is the flying envelope.

Node-5 is a regular node with conditional take-first branching and is the node that signifies completion of a sortie. When a transaction causes this node to be realized, attributes 2, 3 and 4 have one sortie decremented from the existing attribute value. If any attribute value is decremented to zero or less, the transaction traverses the appropriate branch according to the conditions of the branches and will cause realization of either R node-7, 8, or 9 to indicate a system failure. As R node-7, 8, or 9 is realized indicating system failure, the attribute for the failed system has its value reset by another draw from the system MSBMA parameter set. Branching from these reset nodes is deterministic thus two transactions are emitted upon node passage. One transaction, the aircraft, returns to the available pool while the other transaction traverses a path to a mark node with probabilistic branching that determines LRU failures.

If none of the attribute values are decremented to zero or less, the transaction is routed through R node-6 to return to the available aircraft pool.

R node-62 is part of the network that establishes control over the periods of operation and will be discussed later.

The portion of the network discussed in the previous paragraphs and illustrated by figure 4-1 can be thought of as those events exogenous to the shop operation discussed next. Figure 4-5 combines this portion with all other network sections and provides a complete representation of the system network.

#### LRU Failure and Repair

The portion of the system network to be discussed next refers to the network design of figure 4-2. This network section may be thought of as the avionics maintenance shop. System failures are indicated through realization of R nodes-18, 19, and 20. Each of these nodes has probabilistic branching based upon the probability of a particular LRU failure, given the system has failed. These conditional failure probabilities are based upon Air Force empirical data as described by Tetmeyer [27].

The probabilistic branches emanating from R nodes-18, 19, and 20 represent either the removal of a specific LPII from the aircraft or repair of the failed system without removal of a LRU. The branching from R node-19 illustrates a special case where historical data indicates that a representative number of failures of the system produce removal of more than one failed LRU. Each of these nodes has a path to R node-21, which is a dead end node that absorbs all transactions that result in no LRU removal. All other branching from these nodes are paths by which failed LRUs reach queues to await the availability of a test station. As mentioned in the previous section, R nodes-18, 19, and 20 also act as mark nodes that update each transaction's mark time to current simulation time thus providing a statistic by which the time spent in the shop for each LRU may be measured.

There are six Q nodes each representing the waiting time of a specific LRU type for allocation of a test station resource. Q nodes

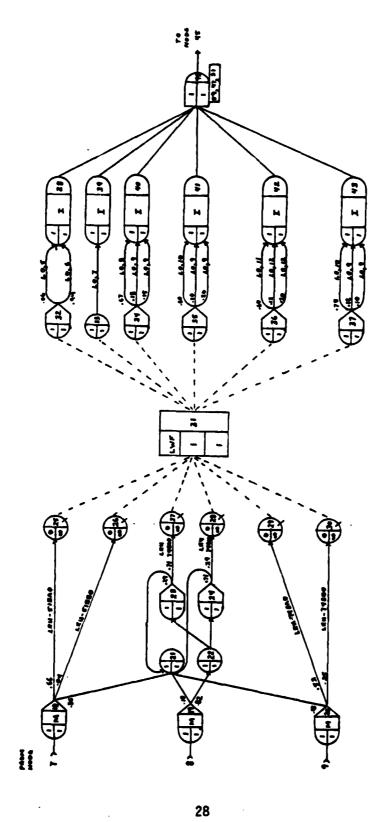


Figure 4-2. LP!! Failure and Repair

25 through 30 are the LRU queues and because any LRU that fails must be repaired, there is no balking.

Allocate node, A node-31, allocates the test station resource to transactions as they arrive at the queues as long as there is a free resource. When the resource is not available, transactions must wait in the queues until the resource is freed. Queue Selection Rules of table 4-2 are used to control the method by which test stations are allocated when there is competition between queues for service. In the network of figure 4-2, the LR!! that has been waiting the longest is selected for allocation, independent of queue membership.

When allocation of a test station for a particular LRU occurs, that LRU traverses a path to one of the R nodes 32 through 37 dependent upon the queue from which the transaction emanated. Each of the R nodes 32 through 37 with the exception of R node-33, has probabilistic branching that determines the type repair action to be completed. LRU repair belongs to one of three categories: bench check and repair; bench check and no repair required; and not repairable this station. Each of these repair actions for each LRU has a specific mean repair time drawn from a Lognormal distribution with the variance set at twenty-nine percent of the mean value, as described by Gunkel [15]. Upon completion of the repair activity, a statistic node is realized which collects time statistics so that the mean time in the system for each LRU type is included in the simulation output. Nodes 38 through 43 are such statistics nodes. Transactions realizing nodes 38 through

Table 4-2.\* Queue Selection Rules

CODE	Key
POR	Preferred order
CYC	Cyclic
RAN	Random
LAV	Largest average number
SAV	Smallest average number
LWF	Longest waiting of first
SWF	Shortest waiting of first
LNQ	Largest number in queue
SNQ	Smallest number in queue
LNB	Largest number of balkers
SNB	Smallest number of balkers
LRC	Largest remaining capacity
SRC	Samllest remaining capacity
ASM	Assembly mode

<sup>\*</sup>Extracted from Pritsker [24].

ic

43 traverse a path to free node-44 which frees the test station resource so that it may be allocated to any waiting transaction in queue nodes 25 through 30. F node-44 also routes the transaction to R node-45.

# Test Station Failure

Simulation of test failures is accomplished by R node-45 which acts as a counter. The number of transactions required to release the node is set at the mean number of LRU repair actions between test station failures as estimated by the test station vendor [4, 29]. The placement of the network section of figure 4-3 at the end of the repair cycle is a matter of networking convenience. In actuality it is more likely that a test station failure would be discovered at the beginning of a LRU repair task, but the model can not differentiate between the end of one task where the test station is released and the beginning of the next task where the test station is allocated since there is no time delay involved.

When R node 45 is realized, a transaction is released to Q Node-45 and because of the priority established for this task, transactions entering this queue will be allocated a test station ahead of any LRU waiting in queues 25 through 30. The test station failure transaction is routed from the queue through R node-48 to a repair activity. Upon completion of repair, the test station is realeased by free node-49 which allows LRU repair to begin. F node-49 routes the transaction to be absorbed by R node-21. The box at the bottom of free node-49 is the

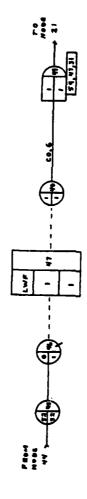


Figure 4-3. Test Station Failure and Repair

method by which test station allocation is prioritized. As indicated by the numbers 59, 47, and 31, test stations will be allocated by node 59 before node-47 etc.

# Control of Time

A network device to control the number of hours of flying operations each day was previously mentioned. The network section of figure 4-4 is the network "clock" which controls periods of flying and periods of LRU repair. The source node generates a single transaction with the value of attribute-1 set to zero. When R node-57 is realized, the attribute value is increased by one and activity five begins. While activity five is in progress, node-5 of figure 4-1 is in the network and flying occurs. Upon completion of activity five, a nodal modification replaces R node-5 with node-62 which routes all transactions back to Q node-3 and all flying of sorties as indicated by realization of R node-5 stops. The transaction, upon completion of activity five, enters Q node-58 and since this allocate node has the highest priority of all allocate nodes, a test station will be allocated to this transaction as soon as it is available. In this manner, shifts are simulated with the restriction that once a job is started, it will be completed before the shift ends. R node-60 is a regular node with conditional take-first branching. The top branch is traversed if attribute-1 is less than or equal to 4. Thus, five days of operating 16 hours and not operating 8 hours will result in simulation. When attribute-1

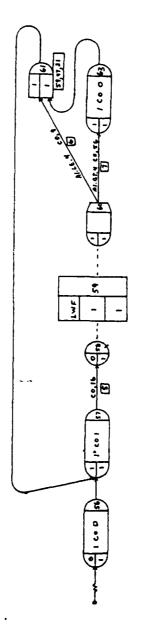


Figure 4-4. Network Clock

reaches 5, the transaction will traverse the lower branch emanating from P node-60 and operations will halt for the weekend. The two activities emanating from R node-60 are labeled activities emanating from R node-60 are labeled activities 6 and 7 and upon completion of these activities, nodal modification replaces R node-62 with P node-5 and sortic generation hegins again. Completion of activity 7 also causes realization of R node 63 which resets the value of attribute 1 to zero so that upon realization of F node-63, a new week begins.

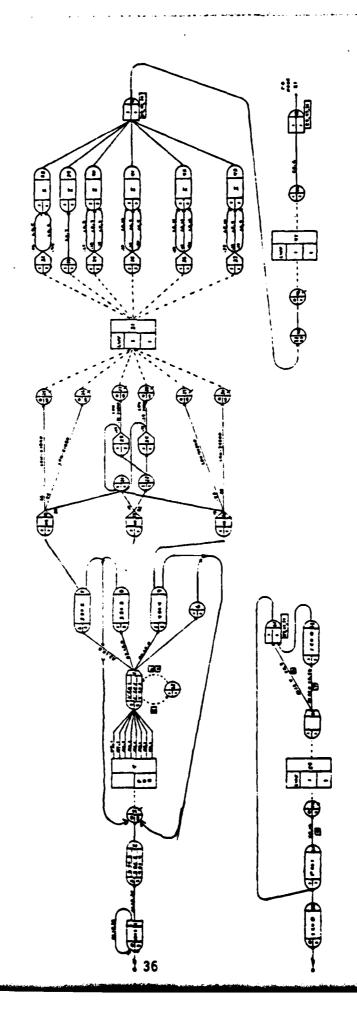


Figure 4-5. Overall System Network

#### V. MODEL VALIDATION

# Verification of Model

Hogg states that "verification of simulation results is a complex problem" [16]. Comparison of analytic results with simulation data must allow for the statistical variation inherent in simulation. Differences will occur due to the approximation of distributions by drawing random deviates. Since these differences are known to exist, comparison only yields evidence of model verification and provides no proof of accuracy.

Within the Q-GERT model of an Air Force Avionic Intermediate Maintenance Shop system, transactions occur due to a draw from a distribution and the path each transaction follows is determined probabilistically. Finally the time each transaction is in the system is determined by resource availability and a draw from a distribution. The choice of simulation as a method to study this sytem was made due to a lack of analytic ability to model such a process.

# Analytic Estimation

Analytic estimation of the output for the number of LRU failures and the mean time to repair LRU failures can be calculated. Table 5-1 shows the expected number of failures of each type LRU based upon an average 20 sorties flown each day and the prescribed system failure rate and the removal probabilities associated with each LRU. The mean number

Table 5-1 Simulated LRU Failures Compared to Expected LRU Failures

STATE OF THE STATE

System MSBMA	LRU Name	Probability of Failure	Number Failures Expected	Mean Simulated Failures
	51BA0	99.	13.2	13.2
22	51880	.04	0.8	1.4
;	748A0	.58	15.0	19.8
<b>&gt;</b>	74BC0	.24	6.0	8.2
(	74EA0	.52	17.6	17.2
<u>-</u>	74EB0	.35	11.8	14.8

Number of Failures Expected, E(X) is computed:

where, X is the number of LRUs.

of failures over five simulations compare well with the expected number of LRU failures.

The expected time to repair each LRU, E(T), can be estimated by:

$$\mathbf{E}(T) = \underbrace{\mathbf{x}}_{i=1}^{n} P(X_{r_i}) (t_{r_i})$$

where,  $X_{r_i}$  is the repair action for LRU; and  $t_{r_i}$  is the time associated with that repair.

Results of such calculations are compared to simulation results in table 5-2:

# Comparison Test

It seems that by comparison, the simulation model is generating the number of failed LRUs expected and that repair of LRUs in simulation is consistent with the expected repair time. The only other parameter of the model that lends itself to this type comparison is the number of sorties flown. In this verification effort, model parameter set-l is set to generate 20 sorties per flying day. Table 5-4 presents the sorties generated in simulation and as can be seen, the realized mean sorties generated per day is 20.

# Steady State Analysis

For most analysis conducted via simulation, a steady state condition should exist. Figure 5-1 shows that test station utilization steady state is realized after six simulation runs.

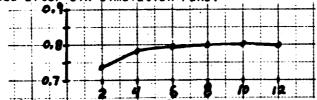


Figure 5-1. Number of Simulation Runs to Reach Steady State for Test Station Utilization

Table 5-2 Expected Repair Time Compared to Simulated Repair Time

LRU Name	Expected Time	Simulated Time
41 ABO	.63	.6337
51880	.90	.8716
74 <u>8</u> A0	2.61	2.5457
74800	2.26	2.4462
74EA0	3.12	3.0777
74EB0	2.46	2.3666

## VI. COMMAND LEVEL DECISIONS

# Decision Analysis with Q-GERT

Statistics are computed in simulation that describe parameters of the system such as: test station utilization; number of LRU failures; average time in the system; average number and time in the queue; and number of sorties accomplished in simulation. Q-GERT Summary Reports provide all of these statistics as output and all but the number of sorties accomplished are read directly as shown in the output example figure 6-1. The number of sorties accomplished equals the number of transaction passages of R node-5 as shown in figure 6-2.

Following is a discussion of the analysis conducted using the Q-GERT model of Chapter IV. The analysis herein illustrates the potential of Q-GERT simulation as a method to aid management in decision making. The examples used do not exhaust the list of questions management can put to Q-GERT analysis but are representative of that list. Analysis is discussed where management must determine:

- the number of test stations to purchase relative to the number of sorties flown each day,
- 2. the number of test stations to provide the maintenance organization relative to costs associated with LRU repair,
- the number of spare LRUs to purchase to support a specified sortie rate.

# SERT STAULATION PROJECT TSDT - BY LIWELL DATE OF 29/ 1979

\*\*\*RESULTS FOR RUN 1=\*

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**RUMPEP IN G-NOCE ==
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#### \*=SERVER UTILIZATION ==

SERVER	LAUFL	NO. PARALLEL SERVERS	AVE.	MAY. IDLE (TIME OR SERVERS)	MAX. BUSY (TIPE OR SERVERS)
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#### .. NO. PALKING PER UNTT TIME..

M 0 C E	LAPFL	AVE.
3 5 P	*CET	.0000
46		.0000

#### \*\*RESOURCE UTILIZATION\*\*

			3	•			
RESOURCE	fterf	NOW IN USF	AVE. IN USE		NOW AVAILAPLE	AVE. AVAILAGLE	YAX. AVAILADLE
1	TSPI				2		1

NODE	TRANSACTION PASSAGES
3 45	1351 1351 6 <sup>5</sup> 8 528
3 45678 9890 12 34 5678 90 12 34 5678	528 307 307 307 307 307 307 307 307 307 307
20 21 22 23	57 64 34 34
25 26 27 28	21 3 22 7
29 30 31 32 33	16 161 21 3
34 35 36 37 38	22 7 32 16 21
3 9 4 0 4 1	3
3 444444567897023	22 7 32 16 101 1 1 23 22 693
47 48 49 57	1 1 23 22
62 63	693

Figure 6-2. Node-5 indicates number of Sorties Flown

- 4. the time period required to complete repair of an existing backlog of failed LRUs,
- test station availability for training when a proposed flying schedule is given,
- 6. if the number of failures realized for a given LRU during some period is representative of the aircraft system estimated mean failure rate.
- the dimensions of the storage space required for failed LRUs awaiting maintenance relative to the number of sorties flown per day.

Questions of the type illustrated by the first three examples represent command level decisions, and are discussed in this chapter. The remaining questions are more of the day to day decision requirements of local management and will be the topic of Chapter VII. Discussion of the analysis involved in these decisions is intended to substantiate the proposal that Q-GERT is a viable tool to be used by Air Force management during both the acquisition and operational cycle of a weapon systems life.

# Test Station Acquisition Relative to Sortie Requirements

# Problems Encountered in Test Station Acquisition

Determination of the number of test stations to purchase must be made early in the acquisition program. Generally, the only information available at the time a decision is made consists of estimates of:

system mean time to failure; probability of component black-box failures given the system failure; probability of the type repair action required; and the mean time to repair for each type repair action. One other test station utilization parameter that is known is the number of sorties per day that will be required for each flying unit. With this information at hand, Air Force managers must determine how many test stations will be required at each installation responsible for repair of the specified aircraft systems and the LRUs associated with those systems. The number of test stations purchased can be based on the flying units' deployment responsibility. Decisions made in this manner will authorize the unit that must support two combat operating locations two test stations while the unit that remains intact during combat deployment will be authorized only one test station.

Authorization based upon this deployment factor has merit in that it is obvious that to support two separate and independent operations, a minimum of two test stations is definitely required. The problem that exists in this method of authorization is that there is no attempt to determine the sufficiency or support effectiveness of the single test station.

# Development of Decision Criteria

Intelligent decision making concerning the acquisition of test stations must include the determination of test station utilization

based upon mission requirement. In that the number of sorties flown per day is the measure of a flying unit's mission requirement, the decision maker must in some way relate this sortie requirement to test station utilization.

Simulation of the Q-GERT model design of Chapter IV will provide this much needed estimate of the relationship between the number of sorties flown and test station utilization. Output statistics of several simulation runs over a range of sortie rates can be analyzed using linear regression to estimate test station utilization, dependent on the average number of sorties flown daily. Such a method requires that at least five simulation runs at each sortie rate be conducted and that the sorties rates used in simulation exceed the maximum potential sorties requirement. Requirement of five simulation runs of each sortie rate is based upon the common practice of using 4 or 5 samples in a subgroup to estimate mean statistics [14]. Simulating at a higher sortie rate than the estimated extreme will insure that the regression line includes the possible sortie rates of interest. The regression line determined using output statistics of these simulations may be used to compute the test station utilization factor for any sortie rate in the range of regression. Confidence intervals about the mean points of regression are established to provide the manager with a clearer understanding of the statistic he will use in a decision.

Regression provides data for graphical representation of test station utilization versus the number of sorties flown per day. This graphical representation is easily read and understood by management. Management can, with the confidence level described on the graph, determine the expected test station utilization factor for any desired sortic rate [6]. This method of decision making will allow management more knowledge of the system and more confidence in the conclusions made.

# Simulation and Regression Analysis

As an example of the above described procedure, simulation was conducted to generate output statistics of test station utilization for eight sortie rates. The sortie rates ranged from 20 sorties per day to 90 sorties per day in intervals of 10 sorties per day. Simulation at each sortie rate was replicated five times with the average test station utilization statistic for each simulation used to compute an overall average test station utilization statistic, Y. An illustration of the simulation output used to determine Y is presented as figure 6-3. Output statistics of Y for each set of simulation runs were used in conjunction with the appropriate corresponding sortie rate, X. Table 6-1, presents the simulation output and computations performed to arrive at the expression:

 $Y_C = .0045 + .0116X$ 

where, X is the number of sorties per day

and  $Y_{\rm C}$  is the resultant mean test station utilization; which gives management the ability to calculate an expected test station utilization factor for any sortic rate desired.

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	AVE.	(2619)	AVE.	2.3802
	1 1 1 1	1621	LAPFL	1801
	RESOURCE LAPFL	-	RFSOURCF LAPFL	-

Figure 6-3. Test Station Utilization Output Summary

Table 6-1. Computation for Regression of Simulated Number of Sorties Flown Daily on Test Station Utilization

Number of Sorties Flown Per Day	Test Station Utilization			
X	Y	уү	χ <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>
20	.24	4.8	400	.0576
30	.33	9.9	900	.1089
40	.46	18.4	1600	.2116
50	.62	31.0	2500	.3844
60	.69	41.4	3600	.4761
70	.83	58.1	4900	.6889
80	.93	74.4	6400	.8649
90	1.04	93.6	8100	1.0816
440	5.14	331.6	28400	3.8740
n = 8			X <sub>1</sub> Y <sub>1</sub> = 33	
£X1 = 440	<u>x</u> = 55	:	$\mathbf{Z} \times_{\mathbf{i}}^{2} = 28^{3}$ $\mathbf{Z} \times_{\mathbf{i}}^{2} = 3.1$	400
$(Y_1 = 5.14)$	$\overline{\gamma} = .6425$		£Yi = 3.1	374

$$n = 8$$
  $\chi_{i} Y_{i} = 331.6$   $\chi_{i} = 440$   $\chi_{i} = 55$   $\chi_{i}^{2} = 28400$   $\chi_{i} = 5.14$   $\chi_{i} = 3.874$ 

$$b = \frac{2x_1Y_1}{n} - xY = .0116 \text{ and } a = Y - bX = .0045$$

which yields:  $Y_c = .0045 + .0116(X)$ 

Calculation of  $Y_C$  for sortie rates over the range of the regression line enables computation of the conditional standard deviation of the estimate of test station utilization. Comparison of simulation resultant Y with computation for  $Y_C$  to determine an estimated standard deviation  $S_{Y_C}$  is shown in table 6-2. This standard deviate is used to construct 95 percent confidence intervals about the estimated mean test station utilization,  $Y_a$  as shown in table 6-3.

Values of  $Y_C$  and  $Y_A$  are used to construct the graph of figure 6-4 which provides management with a means to select the mean test station utilization expected for a given sortic rate. They will be able to use this graph with 95 percent confidence that the actual test station utilization will be in the interval indicated by the dotted lines.

## <u>Decision Rule</u>

Test station acquisition decisions can be made with the aid of the information provided in figure 6-4. Management has only to determine the sortic rate which must be supported and then by selecting the point along the X-axis that represents the desired sortic rate, a point on the regression line can be identified. From the point on the regression line that corresponds to the sortic rate of interest, they can trace across to the Y-axis and read the expected test station utilization.

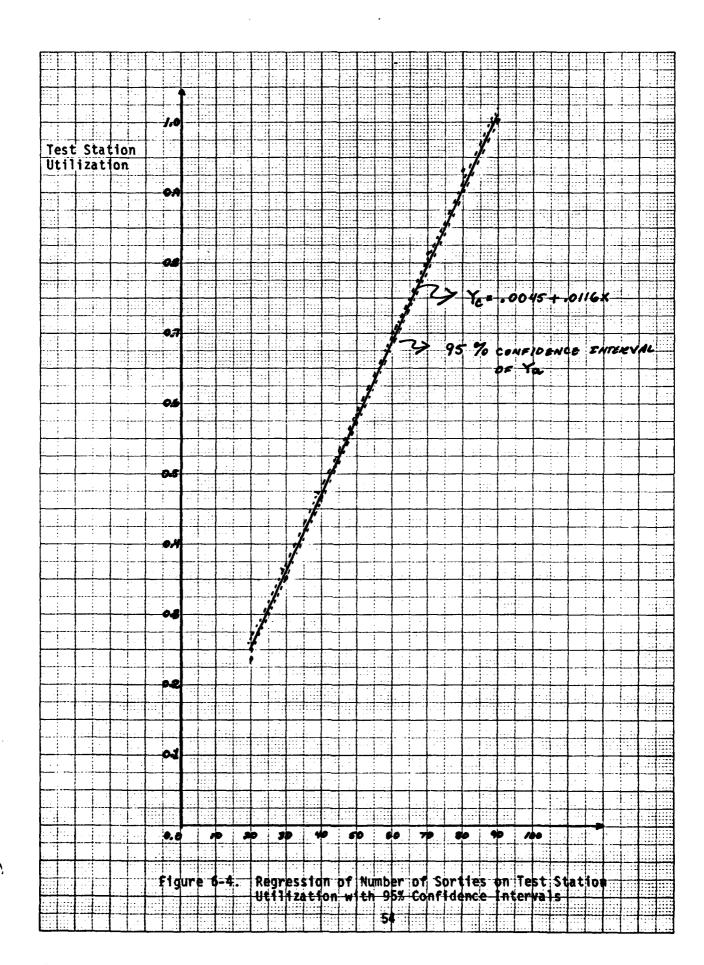
Computation of the Estimate of Test Station Utilization Conditional Standard Deviation Table 6-2.

Number of Sorties Flown Per Nay	Test Station Utilization Y	Conditional Test Station Utilization	Deviation V - V	Square of Deviation (y - y_)2
50	. 24	2365	5.00.	.000012
30	.33	.3525	0225	.000506
40	.46	.4685	0085	.000072
20	.62	. 5845	.0355	.001260
09	69.	.7005	0105	011000.
70	.83	.8165	.0135	.000182
80	.93	.9325	0025	900000
06	1.04	1.0485	0085	.000072
440	5.14	5.1400	0	.002220

and

Table 6-3. Computation of 95 Percent Confidence Intervals for  $Y_{\mathbf{a}}$ 

No. of Sorties X	(x - x)	$(x-\overline{x})^2$	Sya	*°°	۲۵**	
20 25 30	-35 -30 -25	1225 900 625	.0219	.2365 .2945 .3250	+ + +	
0 6 4 4 0 0 0 0 0 0	22- 21- 110 10- 105	225 100 25	.0209 .0207 .0205	4105 4685 5265 5845	.4105 + .0451 .4685 + .0447 .5265 + .0443 .5345 + .0441	
55 60 70 75 80 85	05 10 15 20 20 30 35	25 100 225 400 625 900 1225	.0204 .0205 .0207 .0207 .0212 .0215	.6425 .7685 .7585 .8165 .9325 .9905	.6425 + .0441 .7005 + .0443 .7585 + .0447 .8165 + .0451 .8745 + .0458 .9325 + .0458 .9905 + .0464	
* Sya	×//4s =	7000 1 + 1 + (x \overline{\pi}(x)	$\frac{(x-\overline{x})^2}{(x-\overline{x})^2}$	and ** Ya	=	a a
	where, Sy/x is	s .0192			where, t <sub>(13025)</sub> is 2.16	.16



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# Test Station Acquisition Relative to LRU Repair Costs

# Assumption of Repair Criticality

Assume that the number of sorties required per day is not the primary measure by which test station support requirements are established. During the period of initial weapon system build-up it is possible that spares levels will not be at the estimated requirement. Due to the complexity of manufacturing, the contractor may not be able to provide production and spare level demands for some critical LRUs. Such a situation may make the repair cycle time of a LRU more important since this repair time represents a time constraint on the generation of sorties. If spares for a particular LRU are not available, and that LRU is a critical flight item, the aircraft must wait until the LRU is repaired before it can fly.

Under such circumstances, management would like to know more about the time to repair the LRU in question. The repair time with one test station available could be compared to the repair time when two test stations are in use to measure the effect of having an additional test station available.

# Repair Time Probability Distribution

Analysis that will provide probability distributions of repair cycle times for LRUs can be accomplished using Q-GERT. Statistic node histograms can be requested for the statistic nodes associated with the LRUs of interest. Each histogram will provide a graphical representation of the mean repair cycle time for the simulation runs with

a table listing the relative frequency and the cumulative frequency of those mean repair cycle times. The cumulative frequency describes the probability distribution of repair cycle time that may be used in the decision process.

# <u>Simulation of Alternatives</u>

Twelve simulation runs were conducted with both one and two test stations in use. Analysis of the output from these simulations is conducted for LRU 51BAO as an illustrative example of the method. Histogram output from simulation is shown as figures 6-5 and 6-6. The first figure displays simulation results of one test station and the second figure displays the simulation of two test stations in use. The statistics listed under column heading CUML FREQ in these figures can be interpreted as the probability that the repair cycle time is equal to or less than the corresponding time in the column heading UPPER BOUND OF CELL. As can be seen in figure 6-5, with one test station, the probability of the repair cycle being six hours or less is .083, while the maximum repair cycle time of figure 6-6 is 1.8 hours. If management can determine the time period that is acceptable for repair, they can use these statistics to make the decision between one or two test stations.

## Determination of Decision Rule

Let's assume that the situation described in the preceding paragraphs will exist for about one year. That is, in one year, spare LRUs

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4 2 CCC	
2	

Histogram of Repair Cycle Time for LRU 518AO with One Test Station in Use Figure 6-5.

T STAT HISTOGRAM FOR MODE 38

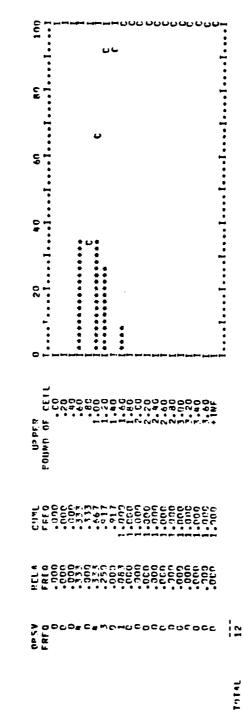


Figure 6-6. Histogram of Repair Cycle Time for LRU 51 BAn with Two Test Stations in Use.

will become available. The cost of an additional test station for one year is estimated by management at \$100,000.00 and repair cycle time is valued at \$50.00 per hour. With these cost estimates, the histogram output of figures 6-5 and 6-6, plus the expected number of LRU failures per week at the sortic rate simulated as indicated in figures 6-7 and 6-8, a decision rule may be determined.

The expected number of failures is 5 per week which is 260 per year. The expected cost of these failures is computed as:

E(c) = 260tP(t)C

where, t repair time
P(t) probability of the repair time
and C cost of repair.

Tables 6-4 and 6-5 present the results of these calculations which show that it is less expensive to expend the \$100,000.00 for an additional test station for a year than to operate with just one test station.

## Spare LRU Acquisition

# LRU Constraints on Sorties

Test station acquisition is only one of several decisions involved in the total avionic maintenance support area. In the first section of this chapter, test station utilization was considered independent of the number of spare LRUs available. This assumption is valid in that test station utilization is independent of whether the LRU is constraining the aircraft. The fact is that such a constraint will effect sortic generation and must be a consideration by management. If a given LRU

GERT SIMULATION PROJECT TEDT PY LOWELL DATE 9/ 20/ 1979 \*\*FINAL RESULTS FOR FIRST SIMULATION \*\* 168.0000 TOTAL ELAPSED TIME = \*\*NODE STATISTICS \*\* NO OF NODE LAPFL ave. STE. DEV. 5. C. W. S. - (5) 14.6212 11.7612 17.3277 0.8564 1.7285 17.7524 9.8222 10.1703 12.2990 9.4374 .0000 10.3883 I 4214098 -- PATTING TIME --##WUMBER IN QHEOTER# TH CUFUE NCCE LAFFL AVE. P 11. YEY. AMERIAL 75.005.00 96005.00 .05005. 23-1200-657-650 23-1200-657-650 16-1200-657-650 16-1200-657-650 14-1200-657-65 1420334337 356759086 000000000 Bucklind .... \*\*SERVER UTILIZATIO: \*\* MAN. ICIE (ATV. ERZA. 1016 OB REBAES) NO. PARALLEL SERVERS LASFL AVE. SERVER 0.299 0.200 0.200 0.000 0.000 166.0000 166.0000 168.0000 168.0000 168.0000 100 99 98 97 96 1.4000 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 1.0000 1 1 1 1 1

Figure 6-7. Average Number of Failures of LRU 51BAO

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Figure 6-8. Average Number of Failures of LRI 51BA0

Table 6-4. Expected Cost of Operation with One Test Station

Repair time	Cost	Probability of t	Expected cost
t	C	P(t)	
6	\$ 78000	.083	\$ 1079.00
8	104000	.250	26000.00
10	130000	.083	10790.00
12	156000	. 083	12948.00
14	182000	.083	15106.00
16	208000	.167	34736.00
18	234000	.167	39078.00
28	364000	.083	30212.00
			\$169949.00

Table 6-5. Expected Cost of Operation with Two Test Stations

Repair time t	Cost C	Probability of t P(t)	Expected cost
0.6	¢ 7000	222	\$ 2597.40
0.6	\$ 7800	.333	·
1.0	13000	.333	4329.00
1.2	15600	.250	2900.00
1.6	20800	.083	1725.40
			\$12552.80

Cost of Additional Test Station \$100,000.00 Plus Cost of Maintenance 12,552.80 Total Cost of Operation \$112.552.80

is aircraft constraining, Air Force managers would like to establish spares levels such that no flight is ever lost due to the lack of a spare LRU. Although this is generally not economically feasible, there is a definite need to know what level of spare LRUs would provide such support.

The spare LRU requirement issue, like the test station decision, must be resolved long before empirical data is available. This situation lends itself to simulation with the use of estimates of failure and repair parameters just like the test station utilization question. The model of chapter IV must be modified to provide output statistics describing the demand distribution for a given LRU. Once again the LRU 51BAO will be used to illustrate network modification and the eventual decision analysis.

## Required Model Modification

The modification required involves the addition of four nodes and a resource for each LRU to be analyzed. Since this example involves only LRU 51BAO, the modification of the network branch between R node-18 and Q node-25, and the branch between statistic node-38 and F node-44 is required. As shown in figure 6-9a, the insertion of Q node-70 and allocate node-71 make the availability of a spare LRU necessary before the failed LRU may be processed for repair. Regular node-72 is necessary since in Q-GERT, a Q node can not follow an allocate node. Free node-73 is inserted between statistic node-38 and free node-44 as shown in figure 6-9b, to free the LRU after repair is completed.

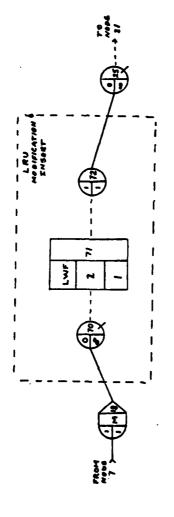


Figure 6-9a. Network Modification to Allocate Spare LRUs

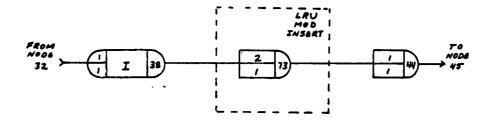


Figure 6-9b. Network Modification to Free LRU

### Simulation to Determine Demand Probability Distribution

With these modifications and the establishment of the LRU resource level high enough to meet any demand, simulation is used to determine the demand distribution. Knowledge of the distribution for the probability of demand will aid management in the decision concerning the number of spare LRUs to purchase.

As in previous simulation analysis, management must have enough knowledge of the system to determine the number of sorties required and the work shift structure to be used. Herein it is assumed that 40 sorties per day is the flight requirement and the work week consists of two 8-hr. shifts, operating five days per week. The LRU spare resource level is set at five, which seems reasonable based on previous simulation results.

Sixty 1-day simulation runs were conducted and the demand for LRU 51BAO was used to construct table 6-6. These simulation observations were grouped according to the number of demands and probability distribution p(D) and cumulative probability P(D) estimates were computed as shown in table 6-7.

# Application of Inventory Decision Model

Since spare LRU stock has the same properties of inventory, a discrete inventory decision model is used to help structure a decision rule for spare LRU purchases. First it is assumed that a cost can be determined that would represent the loss of a sortie due to demand

Table 6-6. Simulation Observations of LRU 51BAO  $\overline{\mbox{ }}$  nemands for Sixty Runs

Run	# D	Run #	D	Run #	D	Run	# D
1	1	16	0	31	0	46	0
2	1	17	1	32	0	47	2
3	1	18	1	33	1	48	0
4	1	19	2	34	C.	49	1
5	0	20	1	35	1	50	1
6	1	21	1	36	0	51	1
7	1	22	1	37	1	52	0
8	3	23	1	38	1	53	0
9	2	24	0	39	0	54	0
10	0	25	1	40	1	55	1
11	1	26	1	41	0	56	0
12	0	27	1	42	1	57	1
13	1	28	1	43	0	48	0
14	1	29	0	44	3	59	2
15	2	30	0	45	1	60	0

Table 6-7. Probability Distribution for Demands of 51BAO

No. Demands	No. Observations	p( 0)	P(D)
0	22	.367	.367
1	31	.517	.884
2	5	.083	.967
3	2	.033	1.000

exceeding spares stock by one. Let us assume that this cost C<sub>2</sub> is found to be \$500.00. The cost of having one excess spare LRU C<sub>1</sub> is equal to the LRU purchase price of \$100.00. Morris (21), describes a procedure where first forward difference and first backward difference inequality:

$$P(I_0 - 1) = \frac{C_2}{C_1 + C_2} \le P(I_0)$$

where,  $I_0$  is the optimum inventory level.

Using the above inequality and the cumulative probability distribution of table 6-7, the following results were obtained:

$$\frac{c_2}{c_1+c_2} = .83$$

inspection reveals that the critical ratio .83 falls between P(0)=.367 and P(1)=.884 thus

$$P(I_0 - 1=0) = .367 \le .83 \le P(I_0 = 1) = .884$$

and the best choice is to buy one spare LRU 51 BAO. Such a decision will minimize total expected costs of sparing this LRU.

#### Alternative Decision Models

This analysis provides optimization when cost is known of can be estimated. When such costs are impossible to obtain, other methods of decision analysis may be employed. One of these is the principle of most probably future. The probability distribution, p(D) of table 6-7 shows the probability of one demand to be greater than the probability

of any other single quantity. The most probably future method of decision making will result in the same decision as the previous method.

Another principle of choice that could be used is that of aspiration level. Use of this method requires the decision maker to determine an acceptable level of loss. Put another way, he must decide what chance he is willing to accept that a sortie will be lost due to the demand exceeding spares levels, before the decision rule can be formulated. Expressed in mathematical form this is:

$$P(L|I_0 = D) = 1-P(D)$$

If management is willing to accept a 10 percent chance of losing a sortie, the decision will be to set the spare LRU level at two since:

$$P(L|I_0 = 1) = 1..884 = .116$$

and

$$P(L|I_0 = 2) = 1..967 = .033$$

50

#### VII. BASE LEVEL DECISIONS

Base level managers are allocated resources at levels determined by Command level decision makers. Utilization of the given resources, in a manner to adequately support the mission, is the responsibility of these base level managers. This chapter illustrates the use of Q-GERT analysis as an aid to management at this level. Each problem discussed is purely hypothetical; used only to illustrate the type question resolved daily by base level management.

## Backlog of Failed LRUs

## Purpose of Analysis

Suppose the shop supervisor has an unusually high backlog of failed LRUs and he wishes to request a period of no flying while he clears this backlog. He must know, with some degree of confidence, how long it will take to return all failed units to serviceable status.

#### Required Model Modification

Prior to simulation, the Q-GERT model must be modified to describe the system starting with existing queues. The modification requires the removal of all nodes in the network preceding the six LRU Q nodes. Deleting this part of the network eliminates sortic generation and the failures caused by sorties. A source node replaces the removed network section as shown in figure 7-la. The configuration of this source node

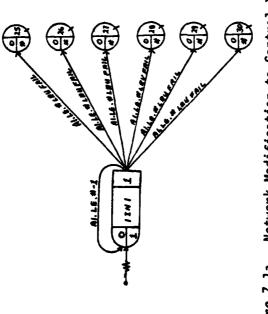


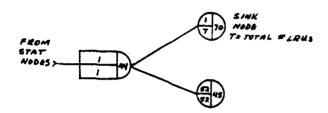
Figure 7-la. Network Modification to Control Initial Queue Quantities

is such that it generates the desired number of failed LRUs. The source node has conditional take-ail branching with a branch leading to each of the LRU queues. Another branch emanating from the source cycles back to cause successive realizations of the node. The source node also serves as an increment node and incrementally increases the value of attribute-1 by one on each realization of the node. Each branch leading to a Q node has the condition Al.LE.#, where # is the number of failed LRUs desired in the queue at the beginning of each simulation run. The branch returning to the source node will have the condition Al.LE.#-1, where # is the greatest number of LPUs desired in any of the queues. This will stop the source node from creating transactions once all the queues reach the desired number of failed LRUs.

Since there is no requirement to control shifts or days of operation, nodes 56 through 63 are deleted, and a sink node is inserted after free node-44 in parallel with the test station failure portion of the network. This last modification is shown in figure 7-1b. Simulation input for this modified network is presented as figure 7-2.

### **Determination of Mean Repair Time**

The model now represents a shop with established non-increasing queues. At the onset of simulation, repair of LRUs will begin and will continue until all queues are empty and the last LPU is repaired. At such time the simulation will stop since no activities will be in process.



Fibure 7-lb. Network Modification to End Simulation Based on Initial Number in Queues

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Figure 7-2. Input Cards for Analysis of Backlogs

Table 7-1. Computation of Mean Time to Clear all Queues

lapsed Time for Run	_ =	(⊤ - Ť)²
(т)	T - T	(T - T)
121.61	-5,103	26.012
125.00	-1.718	2.952
129.05	2.332	5.438
125.80	-0.918	0.843
122.34	-4.378	19,167
134.99	8.272	68,426
128.46	1.742	3,035
126.82	0.102	0.010
121.31	-5,408	29,246
131.80	5.082	25.827
1267.18	0	180,956
n = 10	T = 126.71	8
$s^2 = 20.106$	s = 4.484	
(10,.025) = 2.228		

 $T_a = \overline{T} + t (\gamma, \alpha/2) s/\sqrt{n} = 126.718 + 3.159$ 

Simulation output summary statistic ELAPSED TIME FOR RUN illustrated by figure 7-3 can be used to compute a mean time to clear all queues. Statistical inference tests with the Student-t distribution is then used to establish confidence intervals about the mean time to clear all queues.

### An Example Simulation and Results

For the purpose of analysis, simulation was conducted with ten failures in each quque upon activitation of the model. Ten simulation runs were completed and the time statistic from each was used as shown in table 7-1 to compute a mean time to clear all queues. Ninety percent confidence intervals about the mean were computed with the results showing the expected time to clear the queues being between 5.1 and 5.4 days. With this information, the superivsor could, with 95 percent confidence, support a request for a six day stand-down.

## Planning Training

# Purpose of Analysis

Suppose the shop supervisor knows that 20 sorties per day are scheduled for the next week and he must conduct some training that will utilize the test station making it unavailable for aircraft support. The present hours of operation for the shop are two 8-hour shifts 5 days per week and the supervisor wishes to maintain these hours of operation. He wants to know how many hours can be devoted to training

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===RESULTS FOR RUN

ELAPSED TIME FOR RUN = 126.8158

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28	30,400	. paca
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Figure 7-3. Elapse Time Statistic Used to Determine Average Repair Time of Backlog

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Figure 7-4. Input Cards for Simulation of Shift Work

during the next week without jeopardizing sortie support or changing the present work schedule.

### Adjustment of Simulated Utilization

Simulation of the Q-GERT model design of Chapter IV with parameter set-1 adjusted to generate 20 sorties per day and the clock [nodes 57 through 63] set to allow shop operation as described above as illustrated in figure 7-4 will provide the necessary statistics to estimate the time available for training. Since the method of using the test station on a priority dummy task, to simulate downshifts and weekends, results in increasing the output test station utilization factor, an adjustment must be made to that output statistic to obtain actual test station utilization. The period of simulation for this problem is one week or 168 hours. The work week is 80 hours or .4762 weeks. Computation of an adjusted test station utilization factor is simply

.4762 (mean utilization factor)

where mean utilization is extracted from the summary output as presented in figure 7-5.

### An Example Simulation and Results

Twelve simulation runs with model parameters adjusted as described in the preceding paragraph resulted in the output of figure 7-5. Applythe test station utilization adjustment results in a corrected test station utilization of .3817 which indicates actual utilization of the test station of 30.5 hours. Thus 49.5 hours are available for training.

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Figure 7-5. Average Test Station Utilization

## Comparison of Actual Versus Estimated Failures

### Purpose of Analysis

Most Air Force resources that support aircraft are allocated based upon an estimate of requirement in the support of flying operations. Each avionic maintenance shop has a specific authorization level for each resource assigned. These resources include test equipment maintenance personnel, and spare LRUs. Individual shop supervisors have almost no control over resource levels authorized but may request additional authorizations upon identification of need and the ability to substantiate the need.

Let's assume that a shop supervisor becomes aware of difficulty in keeping up with the workload of the LRUs from a given aircraft system. He knows that his authorizations of resources to support this system are based on the required sortie rate and estimated mean failure rates. He is also aware that the sortie rate flown in the recent past is within the range used to determine his resource allocations. Every piece of evidence suggests that the problem is due to aircraft failures occurring more frequently than anticipated and the supervisor needs a method by which this hypothesis may be tested.

Simulation with the system failure rate of the system of interest set at the estimated mean sortie between maintenance action rate can be accomplished. Output statistics such as those of figure 7-6 can be used to compute an estimated mean number of LRU failures. Confidence intervals about the mean can be established which define the

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\*\*\*RESULTS FOR RUN 12\*\*\*

ELAPS'D TIME FOR RUY = 168,0000

Figure 7-6. Indication of Simulated LRU Failures

limits of rejection for the hypothesis that a sample mean is from the distribution of the population (failure) mean. The mean for actual realized failures can then be tested against the expected failure mean.

### An Example Simulation and Results

The LRU failures of system 74800 were extracted from the output statistics of 12 simulation runs. The model simulated for this problem had the MSBMA for the 74800 system set at the rate used to determine support requirements and the number of sorties flown were consistent with original requirements. Computation of mean failures and 95 percent confidence intervals about the mean are accomplished in table 7-2. Results obtained in table 7-2 indicate that if the mean  $\overline{X}$ , of actual failures is in the interval (22.14  $\leq \overline{X} \leq$  27.86) the supervisor can state with 95 percent confidence that this mean number of failures reflects the estimated mean failure rate. If  $\overline{X}$ , the mean number of failures realized does not fail in this interval he rejects the hypothesis that the number of failures are representative of the estimated failure rate.

### Storage Requirements

### Purpose of Analysis

A decision that is often overlooked in avionic maintenance shops is that of allocating space for failed LRUs awaiting maintenance.

Temporary storage of most LRUs does not create a problem but there are units such as RADAR antennas that may take several cubic feet of

Table 7-2. Calculation of Mean Number of System 74B00 LRU Failures

o. failures X	x - <del>x</del>	$(x - \overline{x})^2$
23	-2	4
18	-7	49
30	5	25
26	1	1
22	-3	9
21	-4	16
33	8	64
29	4	16
29	4	16
24	-1	1
20	-5	25
26	1	1
301		227
= 25	n ≈ 12	s = 4.54

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>t</sup>(12,1025) = 2.179

storage space and if the average number of these units in the shop is greater than one, lack of adequate storage facilities can create problems. For this reason management, in planning shop layout, must consider the expected number of LRUs awaiting maintenance.

### Method of Analysis

Q-GERT output summaries such as figure 7-7 provide a computed average number of units in each queue and the maximum number ever in each queue. The average number in the queue is time dependent and therefore cannot be used for this particular decision. The maximum number in the queue is the statistic one would use to determine storage space requirements since it is most likely that this number is reached predominally over periods of operational shutdown such as nights and weekends.

If one knows the dimensions of each LRU and the expected maximum number of each LRU awaiting maintenance, it is a simple multiplication to arrive at the storage space required.

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Figure 7-7. Average amd Maximum Number of LRUs in Queues

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#### VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusions

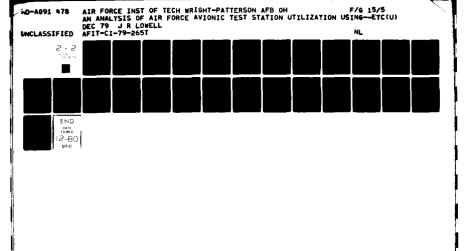
Difficulties exist in the assessment of resource requirements associated with the support of emerging weapon systems. Air Force Test and Evaluation Center analysts require a method to analyze critical questions concerning aircraft logistics support requirements. To be successful, the method must consider the relationship between support resources and aircraft sortic generation. Management alternatives and equipment design options relative to the support system, must be readily evaluated. Evaluation results must be timely and easy to communicate.

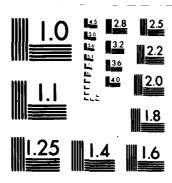
The objective of this report is to develop a Q-GERT model that will meet AFTEC analysts' requirements. It has been shown that a Q-GERT network can be used to describe the relationship between aircraft sorties and avionic test station utilization. Networks such as the one shown in chapter IV, provide graphic representation of the system which gives management a clear picture of the overall support process. Simulation of the Q-GERT model, demonstrated the ease in which the network can be used to analyze various questions as posed in chapters VI and VII. The analysis conducted in this report, demonstrated the use of Q-GERT for decision analysis at Command and base level. Model modifications were also accomplished to show the flexibility of the model to analyze various "what if" questions.

Based on the results of Q-GERT networking and analysis accomplished and discussed in this report, it may be concluded that Q-GERT analysis will satisfy AFTEC analysts' needs.

#### Recommendations

AFTEC plans to use Q-GERT analysis methods to assess F-16 avionic test station support should continue. Such an effort should focus on the extension of the model to include manpower and spare LRUs as constraining resources. Upon completion of the F-16 evaluation, use of Q-GERT should be considered for decision analysis at all levels within the Air Force. The program should be made available to management so that day to day decisions may be made using the same criteria as used for resource allocation.





MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART

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#### APPENDIX A

### **Pata Input Description**

This appendix includes the input cards required for simulation of the model design of chapter IV. Computer printout of the input data for a successful simulation is presented to aid the interested reader in obtaining a more thorough understanding of this report.

In subsequent pages, the following information is presented:

- 1. A sequentially numbered list of the input cards used to describe the network model. Comments are printed to the right of selected card inputs to clarity the intended purpose or function of the input.
- 2. Network description printout which details all Q-GEPT functions and the characteristics of each function used in this simulation follows the input cards.
- 3. Finally, the input cards are again presented in the form that would include diagnostic messages to aid in simulation debugging if system errors were present. The only messages in this example are at the end of the input, and they merely show intended parameter set usage and state that no errors were detected in the input.

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Figure A-1. Input Data

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Figure A-2, Input Data (continued)

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Figure A-9. Q-GERT Source Listing

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Figure A-10. Q-GERT Source Listing (continued)

Figure A-11. Q-GERT Source Listing (continued)

## APPENDIX B

## **Summary Report Description**

This appendix includes an example Q-GERT summary report. The summary presented is for a simulation of the model design of chapter IV for 168 hours (one week) with a requirement of 20 sorties flown per day.

Most of the data items in the report are self explanatory but a discussion of selected element headings is included. Pata elements that are discussed have a number next to them that corresponds to the following:

- 1. \*\*\*RESULTS FOR RUN 1\*\*\*; identifies the run number for which the subsequent statistics were collected.
- 2. ELAPSED TIME FOR RUN = ; indicates the simulation time units required to complete the run;
- 3. \*\*NODE STATISTICS\*\*; provides data collected at statistics nodes. The average column for each node may be a release time, a delay time, or an interval of time depending on the type statistic requested. The number of observations column indicates the number of node releases that occurred during the simulation run.
- 4. \*\*NUMBER IN Q-NODE\*\* and \*\*WAITING TIME IN QUEUE\*\* are statistics associated with the number of transactions that must wait in the queue and the time spent in waiting. The average number in the queue is a time weighted statistic and the maximum number in the queue is absolute.

- 5. NODE and TRANSACTION PASSAGES; list the node numbers and indicate the number of releases of each node during simulation.
- 6. \*\*FINAL RESULTS FOR 12 SIMULATIONS\*\*; is an accumulation of the statistics collected in each simulation run. The output format is similar to that of the individual run statistics but the averages are computed on the average from each simulation run. The observation columns reflect the number of simulation runs included in the computations.
- 7. STAT HISTOGRAMS FOR NODE 43; provides a histogram of the statistics collected at node-43. OBSV FREQ is the number of observations in the range of the cell defined in the column at the far right. RELA and CUML FREQ are the relative and cumulative frequencies of the observations. These frequency statistics may be used to estimate the probability distribution of the variable measured by the statistics node.

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Figure B-2. Output Summary (continued)

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Figure B-3. Output Summary (continued)

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Figure B-4. Output Summary (continued)

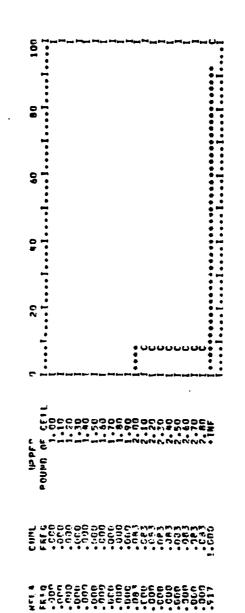


Figure B-5. Output Summary (continued)

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Figure 8-6. Output Summary (continued)

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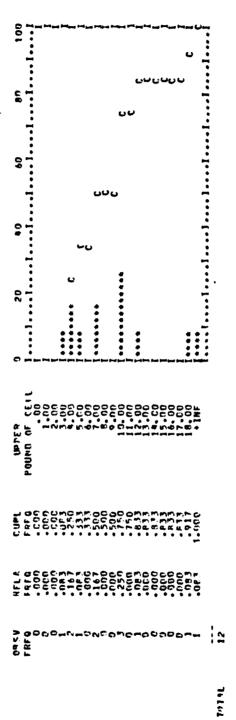


Figure B-7. Output Summary (continued)

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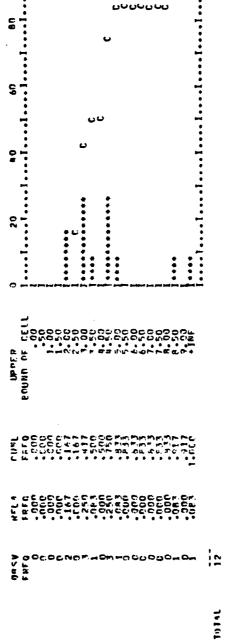


Figure B-8. Output Summary (continued)

I SIAI HISTOGRAM FOR NOTE 38

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18,00	POLINE	200	4.46	. 164	. 47.5	9. 9.					T			6000	605	636.	- 5J5.	1 600.	1.000		
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Figure B-9. Output Summary (continued)

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

James Russell Lowell was born April 9, 1942 in Minneapolis,
Minnesota. He graduated from Corona High School, Corona, California
in 1960 and entered the USAF. Attending classes at the University of
Arizona and the University of Maryland, he became eligible for and
was selected to participate in the Air Force Airmans Education and
Commissioning Program. He completed his Bachelor of Science Pegree
at New Mexico State University in 1973 and received his commission
as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

In August 1978, Captain Lowell entered Arizona State University, sponsored by the Air Force Institute of Technology, to pursue a Masters of Science Degree in Engineering.

Captain Lowell is a member of Alpha Pi Mu (industrial engineering honor society) and the American Institute of Industrial Engineers -Student Chapter.